

Wetherby High School: Trust Proposals – Additional Information

Introduction

As you may already be aware, Wetherby High School is currently a foundation school supported by The Education Trust for Wetherby. This is commonly known as a “Trust School”. The governing body is now consulting on whether the school should change its status to foundation school and remove the link with the Trust. Further information about what this proposal means, and how to comment on the proposals, is set out below.

Will Wetherby High School definitely become a foundation school without a foundation?

The governing body believes that it is in the best interests of the school to become a foundation school and remove its link to the Trust and is working towards a change of status on 6th May 2019. However, the school is not obligated to change its status and the governing body has voluntarily started this process. The school will not change its status and remove the link to the Trust until parents and carers of students at the school, staff at the school, and students themselves have had the opportunity to comment on the proposals. We have written to all parents and carers and have also invited them to a meeting on 12th February 2019 at 5.30pm, to learn more about the proposals or to comment on the proposals.

We have also held meetings with staff, and will be keeping students informed throughout the process.

Any comments or representations which are made about the proposals will be considered by the governing body before a decision is taken to move onto the next step in the process to become a foundation school and remove the link to the Trust. Details of how to provide comments and representations are set out below.

The governing body will not change its status unless they are content that the change would be in the best interests of the school taking account of all of the legal and practical ramifications.

What is a foundation school without a foundation?

A foundation school with a foundation (also known as a “Trust School”) is a maintained school funded by the Local Education Authority which is supported by a charity known as a Trust. The governing body is the employer of staff and the Admissions Authority. The Trust holds the land used by the school for the purposes of the school. A minority of the governing body is appointed by the Trust with the remainder of governors being appointed by staff, parents, the Local Authority and on behalf of the community.

A foundation school without a foundation is very similar to Trust except that the land is held by the governing body and there are no governors appointed by the Trust.

What are the benefits of being a foundation school without a foundation?

The Governing Body of Wetherby High School (who are the decision makers in this instance) believe that withdrawing the link to the Trust will give the school more freedom to look at other options for future partnerships.

The Education Trust for Wetherby is currently a partnership between Wetherby High School and The British Library. In the current educational climate where school to school support remains a big part of the national agenda the Governing Body would like to explore options and partnerships that would benefit the school and the school community to a greater extent. We do, however, value our relationship with The British Library and would very much want this to continue but it does not have to be through a legal agreement.

Are there any disadvantages to becoming a foundation school without a foundation?

As the Trust will no longer have links to our school, it will not appoint governors to our governing body and will not automatically support our school community through its work and fundraising activities.

Will the admissions arrangements change?

No. As a foundation school with a foundation we already act as the Admissions Authority. The current admission arrangements will remain in place. If the school wanted to change its admission arrangements consultation would be required.

How can I find out more?

A meeting will be held at the school on 12th February at 7.00pm. We would encourage you to attend if you have any questions, or simply want to learn more.

If you can't find the answer to your question here and cannot attend the meeting on 12th February, please email Phoebe Megally (pmegally@wetherbyhigh.co.uk), who will try to assist.

How can I make representations?

To respond to this consultation on whether the change of status and removal of the link to the Trust should take place:

Representations can be made in writing to:

Mrs L Lakin, Wetherby High School, Hallifield Lane, Wetherby, LS22 6JS

Or by email to: pmegally@wetherbyhigh.co.uk

The closing time and date for representations to be made is **noon on Friday 1 March 2019.**